



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**WASHINGTON DC**

Office of the Secretary

21 Jun 05

**SAF/IG Complaint Analysis Summary Statement**

The Air Force Inspector General (IG) has completed an analysis of complaints against Brig Gen Johnny A. Weida, the Commandant of Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), and will further investigate one allegation against him. The fact that an IG investigation will be conducted in no way implies wrongdoing on the part of Brig Gen Weida. It simply means that the Air Force requires further information to determine whether the allegation should be substantiated or not substantiated. The IG analysis of actions attributed to Brig Gen Weida was independent of the review group effort that examined religious intolerance at USAFA.

It has been alleged that Brig Gen Weida publicly endorsed religious beliefs, and that his activities, taken overall, improperly established a religion within the USAFA environment. The complaint analysis included a review of available documentation and interviews with individuals who either had personal knowledge of the circumstances or were subject matter experts. Following a review by attorneys from the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Administrative Law Division, the report was forwarded to the Air Force Inspector General. Upon evaluation of the facts, the IG dismissed the following allegations against Brig Gen Weida:

- That on or about 28 Apr 03, Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution by officially acknowledging the 1 May 03 National Day of Prayer.

The inquiry determined that Brig Gen Weida's message did not violate any published standard.

- That on or about 13 Jun 03, Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution, by instructing cadets that they were accountable to their God.

As in the previous allegation, the analysis determined that Brig Gen Weida followed traditional military custom, values and philosophy in his instruction that cadets should consider responsibilities greater than self.

- That on or about 27 Feb 04, Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution, when he gave a talk on religious tolerance that was accompanied by an evangelical Christian visual aid.
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The inquiry produced evidence demonstrating that the visual aid—a slide with a scriptural quote advertising the meeting of a cadet organization—which appeared briefly on dining hall viewing screens and was unrelated to Brig Gen Weida’s presentation, was the product of an independent process that Brig Gen Weida’s staff corrected.

- That on or about 19 Apr 05 Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution, by attending a meeting in which threats to Christianity were discussed.

Testimony indicated that periodic lunchtime meetings were held for interested USAFA faculty and staff in which religious topics were discussed. Brig Gen Weida, having never previously attended such a session, chose this one to monitor and violated no standard or guidance in doing so.

- That on or about 19 Mar 04 Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution by authorizing cadets to display religious articles in their rooms to the exclusion of non-religious articles.

Documentation and testimony confirmed that, consistent with existing guidance, cadets are free to display religious and non-religious articles in their rooms.

- That by his actions on various other dates Brig Gen Weida advocated religion, and one religious tradition over others, to the cadet wing, in violation of the establishment clause of the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

Cadet and faculty interviews suggested that Brig Gen Weida talked about his personal faith in one-on-one situations and when he was asked to speak at religious events, but not publicly in an open forum to those who had not chosen to be present.

Based upon applicable standards, the evidence did not indicate wrongdoing or misconduct on the part of Brig Gen Weida with respect to the above allegations. However, the IG directed further investigation in the area of the possible existence of a communicative code that could have been used to facilitate the proselytization of non-Christian cadets. The IG assigned the investigation to the Air Force IG’s Senior Official Inquiries Directorate. Once again, the fact that the IG determined that further investigation is warranted in no way implies wrongdoing by Brig Gen Weida.

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